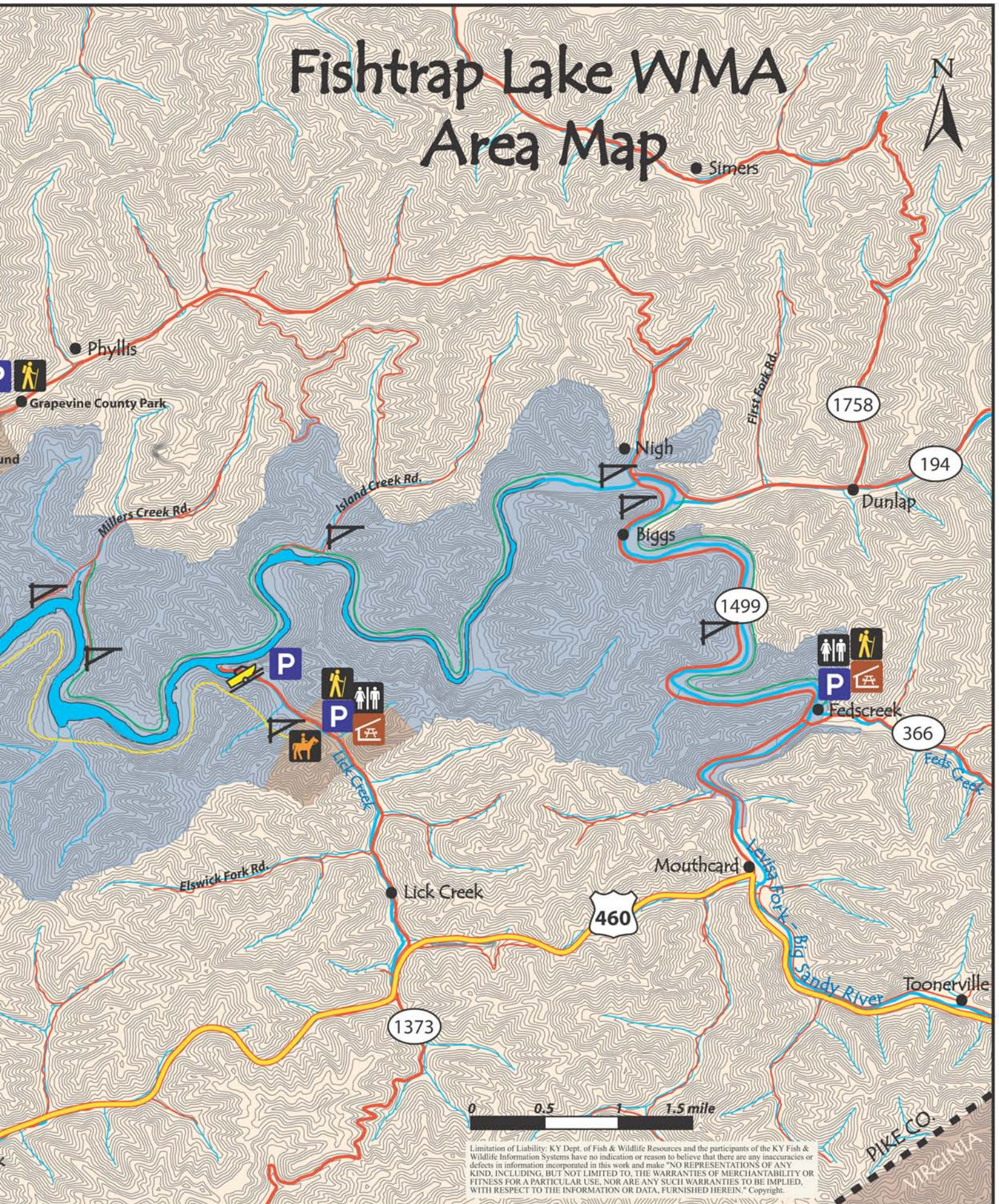




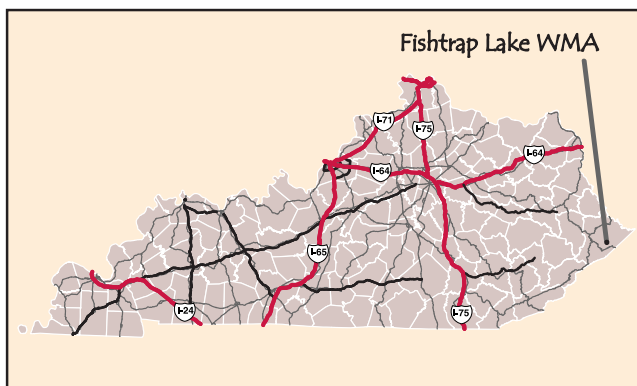
# Fishtrap Lake WMA Area Map



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# Fishtrap Lake WMA General Information



## General Guidelines:

All specific information on area use for hunting, fishing, and other activities can be found in one of the many guides published by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources or by calling 1-800-858-1549.

1. Vehicles must remain on maintained roads. Some roads are closed to vehicle travel by gates, and some roads may be open to vehicle travel only during portions of the year.
2. Do not block gates or access roads.
3. ATVs are permitted only if the operator possesses a valid mobility-impaired access permit, and only on trails designated for this purpose (refer to map).
4. Horseback riding is permitted only on designated trails (refer to map).
5. Camping is permitted only at the designated campground at Grapevine. Open fires are prohibited on the WMA.
6. Access to the WMA across private land is by landowner permission only.
7. Please respect private property. Area boundaries are marked by signs and red paint.
8. Hunters shall not discharge a firearm within 100 yards of a boat ramp, a residence, or occupied building. This applies whether or not the building is on the WMA.
9. Please refer to the current Kentucky Hunting and Trapping, and Sport Fishing and Boating Guides for hunting, fishing, and boating information. Be sure to refer to the section on Fishtrap WMA or Fishtrap Lake for special regulations which may be in effect.

## KDFWR Telephone Numbers:

### WMA Manager

606-424-2086

### Fisheries Manager

606-886-9161

### KDFWR Information line:

1-800-858-1549

### Telecheck:

1-800-CHK-GAME (1-800-245-4263)

### Licenses/Quota hunt applications:

1-877-598-2401

### To Report Wildlife Violations Only:

1-800-25A-LERT (1-800-252-5378)



## Directions:

**From Lexington:** Take I-64 east for 17 miles to the Bert Combs Parkway. Take the parkway east for 74 miles to Salyersville. At Salyersville take KY 114 east for 18 miles to US 23. Take US 23 south for 25 miles to the junction of KY 460 at Pikeville.

**From Ashland:** Take US 23 south 94 miles to the junction of KY 460 at Pikeville.

### From Pikeville:

To the quota hunt check station and visitors center (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Office): Take KY 460 east 4.8 miles to KY 178, then go 2.5 miles to the COE office.

To the Lick Creek Area: Take KY 460 east for 18.5 miles to KY 1373. Turn left on KY 1373 and go 2 miles to the boat ramp.

To the Grapevine Area: Take KY 460 east 21 miles to KY 1499. Turn left on KY 1499, and proceed 6 miles to KY 194. Turn left on KY 194 and proceed 9 miles to the boat ramp.

## Fishtrap Lake WMA Information:

The Fishtrap Lake Wildlife Management (WMA) is located in Pike Co., KY, near the Virginia border. Nestled within the Cumberland Plateau physiographic region, it is the most easterly WMA in the state, and also one of the most rugged. Topography ranges from 757 to 2040 ft. and is characterized, for the most part, by very steep ridges, deep hollows, and narrow ridgetops. Its acreage is approximately 90% forested, consisting primarily of mid to older-age upland oaks, hickories, and other hardwoods. Some patches of native pines occur on side-slopes, and narrow, managed openings are present in places along the river and some larger creeks. Approximately 650 acres of reclaimed mine land on the WMA also provide limited grassland and shrubland cover for wildlife.

The Army Corps of Engineers acquired 15,439 acres for the Fishtrap Lake project in 1963. Shortly thereafter, 15,299 acres were licensed to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) as WMA, for fish and wildlife management and outdoor recreation purposes. The 1131 acre Fishtrap Lake was created in 1968 by impounding the Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River. Like the land surrounding it, the contour of the lake for the most part is very steep. Maximum depth near the dam ranges to 68 feet. More gently sloping areas are found on the upper end of the lake near the confluence with the river. Normal pool elevation during summer months is 757 ft., and between mid-September to late March the lake is typically drawn down to 735 ft. for flood storage purposes. This winter drawdown creates exposed mud flats during this time and also shrinks the size of the lake to 569 acres.

Prime natural habitat coupled with active and ongoing management by KDFWR supports an abundance and diversity of wildlife. Forest raptors and songbirds are found in great numbers, and some species such as cerulean warblers, black-throated green warblers, and blue-headed vireos are relatively rare in other portions of the state. Many of these species are neo-tropical migrants, meaning they nest in North America and winter in Central and South America. Nationally, numbers of many of these species are declining, making locations such as Fishtrap WMA very important as sources of breeding habitat for these birds. Opportunities to view wetland species such as wood ducks, great blue herons, and green herons exist on the lake and river. Deer, turkey, squirrel, and many species of furbearer are abundant on the WMA, and black bear and elk are also present. Wildlife openings in some creek bottoms, reclaimed mine areas managed by KDFWR, and selected lake mudflats planted to wheat in the fall provide food and cover for a variety of wildlife. In recent years a habitat improvement project in cooperation with the Ruffed Grouse Society has been ongoing in the Elkfoot region of the WMA. Low quality, mid-aged forest areas are selectively thinned to create optimum cover for grouse, woodcock, and a variety of other wildlife which favors young forest habitat. The rugged, secluded terrain supports an abundance of

reptiles including the venomous northern copperhead and timber rattlesnake. Though these species should be respected, indiscriminant killing serves no worthwhile purpose. The diversity of species of salamanders in the sheltered coves and small drainages of the WMA is nearly as great as anywhere in the world.

**Hunting** is popular on the WMA. Populations of deer, turkey and squirrel are very good across the area. The deer herd is of good quality, having a fairly balanced buck to doe ratio, and a good percentage of older-aged bucks. Grouse are present in areas of second growth forest, and some woodcock are found in forested bottomland along the creeks. Populations of quail, dove, and rabbits are currently very low but look to improve as mines on the WMA are retired and the reclaimed land becomes available for management. Besides statewide youth hunts, the only gun or muzzle-loader hunting for deer permitted on the WMA is an annual two-day quota hunt. This hunt requires advance application and selection. Be sure to consult a current issue of the KY Hunting Guide for this and other special regulations which may apply to Fishtrap WMA before you hunt.

**Fishing and boating** opportunities are abundant, with three launch ramps and a marina near the dam. There are no horsepower restrictions on motors, however, boaters should be very observant of no wake zones, respectful of other boaters, and follow all safety and other regulations. Fishtrap Lake and the Levisa Fork represent one of the better fisheries in eastern Kentucky. Black bass, crappie, hybrid striped bass, and flathead and channel catfish are abundant in the lake and of good average size. The river above the lake supports good numbers of smallmouth bass, catfish, many panfish, and supports an annual spawning run of white bass from the lake each spring. The tailwater area is stocked with rainbow trout spring through fall.

Fishtrap Lake WMA is an outstanding area for **birding** and underutilized for this purpose. The best time to hear and see most forest species is in May and June when breeding season gets underway and the males of many species are actively calling.

The Pike County government maintains a 14 mile long **horseback riding** trail on the south side of the lake (refer to map). Horseback riding on Fishtrap WMA is permitted only on this designated trail. Organized rides of 10 or more people require a group use permit which must be applied for in advance from the

WMA Manager. The horse trail is closed to riding during the annual deer quota hunt, and may be closed other times of the year due to conflict with other recreational activity. **Hiking** is permitted on the horse trail and throughout Fishtrap Lake WMA.

Approximately 30 miles of **mobility impaired access trails** are located between Feds Creek and Millers Creek, including much frontage along the lake and river. On these trails, persons with a qualifying disability and a valid mobility impaired access permit may operate an ATV to hunt and fish. This is the only ATV use permitted on Fishtrap WMA. Permit applications are available from the Area Manager or by calling KDFWR's information line. Permits must be renewed annually.

## Army Corps of Engineers and Pike County Government

The Army Corps of Engineers (COE) retains ownership of all government land on the Fishtrap Lake project. Although the COE has granted a license to KDFWR and other agencies to directly manage the majority of these acres, the COE nonetheless maintains oversight responsibilities on all project lands. The COE operates the Fishtrap Lake dam, and regulates lake levels for flood control and recreation purposes. A host of recreational facilities at many locations on and near Fishtrap Lake are operated by the COE. Some facilities in the Grapevine, Lick Creek, and Feds Creek areas are administered in cooperation with Pike County government. A description of the developed recreational attractions available at different locations on the Fishtrap Project follows:

**Dam and Tailwater Area:** Information center, marina, boat launch, picnic area, picnic shelters (reservations accepted), playground equipment, basketball court, horseshoe pit, restroom facilities.

**Grapevine Creek Area:** Campground, boat launch, walking track, basketball court, picnic area, picnic shelter (reservations accepted), horseshoe pit, restroom facilities.

**Lick Creek Area:** Access to horse trail, boat launch, walking track, basketball court, picnic shelters, horseshoe pit, playground equipment, putt-putt golf, restroom facilities.

**Feds Creek Area:** Access to mobility impaired ATV trail, picnic shelter, playground equipment, walking track, putt-putt golf, softball field, restroom facilities.

## Other Telephone Numbers:

### Army Corps of Engineers

(General information, recreational facilities in the dam and tailwater areas, campground, picnic shelters near dam and at Grapevine): 606-437-7496

Daily lake information: 606-437-9426

Campground at Grapevine (Memorial Day - Labor Day only): 606-835-4564

### Office of the County Judge

Recreational facilities at Grapevine, (except campground), Lick Creek and Feds Creek: 606-432-6247

### Marina

606-432-6894

